

SOME PARTICULARS,

*S. Danell*

ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE LIFE AND OPINIONS

OF

**ANDREW JACKSON,**

THE SEVENTH PRESIDENT

OF THE

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

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Hear! hear! Prometheus from his rock appeal  
To earth, air, ocean, all that felt or feel  
His power and glory, all who yet shall hear  
A name eternal as the rolling year;  
He teaches them the lesson taught so long,  
So oft, so vainly—*learn to do no wrong.*

BYRON.

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*"In order to get rid of those prejudices against military men it is only necessary for the persons who have sent home this Memorial to look across their own frontier into the Great Republic adjoining their territory, and see a person elevated by the voice of the people to its highest station, who is a military man also, and who has risen to distinction by his successful achievements in war, and is now placed, in peace, in the highest civil office of the State."—[Vide Sir George Murray's speech upon Canadian affairs:—House of Commons, June 24th, 1829.]*

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**YORK:**

WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE.

COLONIAL ADVOCATE PRESS.

1829.

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"President Jackson commenced his official career on the 4th of March last, with every motive which should operate on the human heart to urge him to forget the prejudices and passions which had been exhibited in the previous contest, and to practice dignified moderation and forbearance. He had been the choice of a considerable majority of the people, and was elected by a large majority of the electoral votes. He had been elected mainly from the all powerful influence of gratitude for his brilliant military services, in spite of doubts and fears entertained by many who contributed to his elevation. He was far advanced in years, and, if fame speak true, was suffering under the joint infirmities of age and disease. He had recently been visited by one of the severest afflictions of Providence, in the privation of the partner of his bosom, whom he is represented to have tenderly loved and who warmly returned all his affection. He had no child on whom to cast his honours. Under such circumstances, was ever man more imperiously called upon to stifle all the vindictive passions of his nature, to quell every rebellious feeling of his heart, and to dedicate the short residue of his life to the God who had so long blessed and spared him, and to the country which had so greatly honored him?"—*Vide Mr. Clay's speech at Fowler's Garden, Lexington, May 16th, 1829.*

"Bonaparte once said, that a man to be a successful Governor, must possess a knowledge of mankind, and a tact for governing them. This is true to the letter, and under no government in the world are these great pre-requisites more necessary than in ours. No man has more happily exemplified the verity of the assertion, than General Jackson in his whole transit through life. With that astute perception of character, which has ever distinguished him, and that remarkable adaption of his means to the ends, has he selected his constitutional advisers most judiciously for their respective stations. To sound and vigorous minds, with characters unimpeached and unimpeachable; with a steady devotion to the great principles of our confederation; these gentlemen unite much practical experience, unshaken moral firmness, habits of great industry, and that most unostentatious deportment, which best comports with the plainness and simplicity of our institutions."—*Letters from Washington.*

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# SOME PARTICULARS, ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE LIFE AND OPINIONS OF ANDREW JACKSON.

Being fully aware of the preponderating influence exercised over the Councils of the great North American Republic, by its chief magistrates, and that much anxiety is felt in Canada concerning the principles by which the new administration at Washington is governed, and the policy it may pursue towards other nations, particularly England; we have selected some *circumstances* in the history of the individual who now fills the presidential chair, to lay before the public, as being well calculated to manifest the real feelings not only of his cabinet, but also of the great body of his nation. In collecting facts we have had recourse to the best authorities within our reach; and are sure that the bulk of the Canadian people are altogether unacquainted with most of the particulars hereinafter related.

The path by which Andrew Jackson has arrived at the dictatorship of twelve millions of men, has been oftener strewn with thorns than garnished with flowers. He was presented in early life with the cup of adversity, and drank its bitter waters even to the dregs. In his sixty third year he has been called upon to preside over the councils of the people of America, by the suffrages of a vast majority of the electors, very many of whom are well acquainted with his private character as a man, and his public reputation as a soldier and statesman.

It is admitted by those who ought to know him best, even among his opponents, that his patriotism is untarnished and his veneration for the constitution of his country unequalled.

tionable.\* His experience in state matters will now be put to the test; and, as he sometimes observes concerning others, "The tree will be known by its fruit." As for his military habits about which an outcry has been made, it seems unreasonable to put the mark of disqualification upon a civilian, merely because in time of danger, and at the call of his country, he has put on a martial dress and been successful at the head of a regiment or in the command of an army. George Washington's habits, acquired in the camp and field of battle, did not unfit him for exercising civil rule, and why should soldiership and its perils have been a bar to the election of Andrew Jackson to the presidency?

The most authentic account of the life of Jackson, and to which we are greatly indebted, was published in Philadelphia, in 1824, by Bradford. The first four chapters were written by the late Major Reid, who was an eye witness to

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\* The hatred born by Jackson to tyranny and arbitrary power, may be clearly perceived in many of his actions; we give his reasons for refusing to go as minister to Mexico, to which situation he had been nominated by Colonel Monroe without his knowledge, as one instance out of many. "On mature reflection" observes Jackson, in a letter to a friend, afterwards published in the Mobile newspapers, "I have come to the" "conclusion: That, in the present revolutionary state of Mexico, the appearance of an American minister at that court, with credentials to the tyrant *Iturbide*, would carry with it, to the people of that country, the appearance that the U. States approved his course: would thereby strengthen the tyrant—and enable him the more firmly to rivet the chains of despotism on the Mexican people, who of right ought to be free. The future peace and security of the United States, materially depend upon the Mexicans establishing a government upon the representative system. These views induced me to decline the acceptance, determined never to permit pecuniary or other considerations, to entice me into a measure, where the cause of suffering humanity could not be relieved, and where there was no prospect of my rendering any service to my country."

the events he recorded, and the residue by John Henry Eaton, late a senator of the United States and who has succeeded General Porter at the head of the War Department. It brings the memoirs of the president down to 1814, beyond which period no other writer has continued the history. So that the only authentic account of the *Arbuthnot* and *Ambrister* affair, which brought so much odium upon Jackson, and impressed the people of these colonies so very unfavourably towards him (the writer of this article not excepted) has as yet to be enquired after in the annals of his country, the proceedings of congress and the periodicals of 1818, 19 and 20.

\* "ANDREW JACKSON was born on the 15th day of March, 1767. His father (Andrew), the youngest son of his family, emigrated to America from *Ireland* during the year 1765, bringing with him two sons, Hugh and Robert, both very young. Landing at Charleston, in South Carolina, he shortly afterwards purchased a tract of land, in what was then called the Waxsaw settlement, about forty-five miles above Camden; at which place the subject of this history was born. Shortly after his birth, his father died, leaving three sons to be provided for by their mother. She appears to have been an exemplary woman, and to have executed the arduous duties which had devolved on her, with great faithfulness and with much success. To the lessons she inculcated on the youthful minds of her sons, was, no doubt, owing, in a great measure, *that fixed opposition to British tyranny and oppression, which afterwards so much distinguished them.* Often would she spend the winter's evenings, in recounting to them the sufferings of their grandfather, at the siege of Carrickfergus, *and the oppressions exercised by the nobility of Ireland, over the labouring poor;* impressing it upon them, as a first duty, to expend their lives, if it should become necessary, in defending and supporting the natural rights of man.

Inheriting but a small patrimony from their father, it was impossible that all the sons could receive an expensive education. The two eldest were therefore only taught the rudiments of their mother tongue, at a common country school. But Andrew, *being intended by his mother for the*

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\* Reid's Memoirs of Jackson.

*ministry*, was sent to a flourishing academy at the Waxsaw meeting house, superintended by Mr. Humphries. Here he was placed on the study of the dead languages, and continued until the revolutionary war extended its ravages into that section of South Carolina, where he then was, rendered it necessary that every one should betake himself to the American Standard, seek protection with the enemy, or flee his country. It was not an alternative that admitted of tedious deliberation. The natural ardor of his temper, deriving encouragement from the recommendations of his mother, whose feelings were not less alive on the occasion than his own; and *excited by those sentiments in favour of liberty*, with which, by her conversation, his mind had been early endued, quickly determined him in the course to be pursued; and at the tender age of fourteen, accompanied by his brother Robert, he hastened to the American camp, and engaged actively in the service of his country. His oldest brother, who had previously joined the army, had *lost his life at the battle of Stono*, from the excessive heat of the weather, and the fatigues of the day.

Both Andrew and Robert were, at this period, pretty well acquainted with the manual exercise, and had some idea of the different evolutions of the field, having been indulged by their mother in attending the drill and general musters of the neighbourhood.

The Americans being unequal, as well from the inferiority of their numbers, as their discipline, to engage the British army in battle, had retired before it, into the interior of North Carolina; but when they learned that Lord Cornwallis had crossed the Yadkin, they returned in small detachments to their native State. On their arrival, they found Lord Rawdon in possession of Camden, and the whole country around in a state of desolation. The British commander being advised of the return of the settlers of Waxsaw, Major Coffin was immediately despatched thither, with a corps of light dragoons, a company of infantry, and a considerable number of tories, for their capture and destruction. Hearing of their approach, the settlers, without delay, appointed the Waxsaw meeting house as a place of rendezvous, that they might the better collect their scattered strength, and concert some system of operations. About forty of them had accordingly assembled at this point, when the enemy approached, keeping the tories, who were dressed in the common garb of the country, in front, whereby this little band of patriots were completely



deceived, having taken them for Capt. Nisbet's company, in expectation of which they had been waiting. Eleven of them were taken prisoners; the rest with difficulty fled, scattering and betaking themselves to the woods for concealment. Of those who thus escaped, though closely pursued, were Andrew Jackson and his brother, who, entering a secret bend in a creek that was close at hand, obtained a momentary respite from danger, and avoided, for the night, the pursuit of the enemy. The next day, however, having gone to a neighbouring house for the purpose of procuring something to eat, they were broken in upon, and made prisoners, by Coffin's dragoons and a party of Tories who accompanied them. Those young men, with a view to security, had placed their horses in the wood, on the margin of a small creek, and posted, on the road which led by the house, a sentinel, that they might have information of any approach, and in time to be able to elude it. But the Tories, who were well acquainted with the country and the passes through the forest, had, unfortunately, passed the creek at the very point where the horses and baggage of our young soldiers were deposited, and taken possession of them. Having done this, they approached cautiously, the house, and were almost at the door before they were discovered. To escape was impossible, and both were made prisoners. Being placed under guard, Andrew was ordered, in a very imperious tone, by a British officer, *to clean his boots*, which had become muddied in crossing the creek. This order he positively and peremptorily refused to obey; alledging that he looked for such treatment as a prisoner of war had a right to expect. Incensed at his refusal, the officer *aimed a blow at his head with a drawn sword*, which would, very probably, have terminated his existence, had he not parried its effects by throwing up his left hand, on which he received a severe wound, *the mark of which he bears to this hour*. His brother, at the same time, for a similar offence, received a deep cut on the head, which subsequently occasioned his death. They were both now taken to jail, where, separated and confined, they were treated with marked severity, until a few days after the battle before Camden, when, in consequence of a partial exchange, effected by the intercessions and exertions of their mother, and Captain Walker, of the militia, they were both released from confinement. Captain Walker had, in a charge on the rear of the British army, succeeded in making thirteen prisoners, whom he gave in exchange for

seven Americans, of which number were these two young men. *Robert, during his confinement in prison, had suffered greatly; the wound on his head, all this time, having never been dressed, was followed by an inflammation of the brain, which, in a few days after his liberation, brought him to the grave.* To add to the afflictions of Andrew, his mother, *worn down by grief, and her incessant exertions to provide clothing, and other comforts for the suffering prisoners, who had been taken from their neighbourhood, expired in a few weeks after her son, near the lines of the enemy, in the vicinity of Charleston.* Andrew, the last and only surviving child, confined to a bed of sickness, occasioned by the sufferings he had been compelled to undergo, whilst a prisoner, and by getting wet, on his return from captivity, was thus left in the wide world, without a human being with whom he could claim a near relationship. The small pox, about the same time, having made its appearance upon him, had well nigh terminated his sorrows and his existence."

Here we shall pause for a moment, to ask the intelligent reader, whether it is probable that president Jackson entertains feelings of friendship or regard towards that government which he had been thus early taught to consider tyrannical and oppressive?—an opinion which the experience both of his youth and riper years; the events of the civil war in America; the manner of his brother and mother's death; the dismal accounts of misrule and cruelty practised upon the countrymen of his parents and brethren in unhappy Ireland, so long and so often wafted across the Atlantic; and the mode of education and even the tone of the principal public writers, would serve to confirm.—Is it probable that the sight of the scar and the recollection of the bereavements connected with its history, even at this distant day, has ceased to conjure up feelings and recollections unfavourable to the existing government of England?—True, the warm and ardent feelings of youth, have given place to the prudence and caution usually attendant on more mature years, but few will have read even the preceding pages, without coming to the conclusion, that,



however much the president of America may incline to cultivate peace with all nations, he would nevertheless gladly seize the first favourable moment, his nation consenting\*, to put forth the dormant powers of the youthful republic, and drive (if successful) colonial government and European ascendancy across the Atlantic. The events of the last war—the language of the great majority in congress—the tone of the public prints and other favourite political periodicals—the declared sentiments of the people—the very elevation of *Andrew Jackson* to the presidency, afford unquestionable proofs of the public feeling concerning British domination on this continent. Federalists and anti-federalists; southren-men and northren-men, think alike on this important question. Mr. Adams's celebrated message to congress of December, 1823, and the *Panama documents* since

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\* The nature of the monarchical form of government, with its attendant distinctions in rank, we may suppose is nearly as repugnant to their tastes as democracy is to ours. The eternal recollections, too, of all the past quarrels between us, in which—probably for want of any other history—they indulge not only as an occasional pleasure, but impose upon themselves as a periodical duty, and celebrate, accordingly, with all sorts of national rancour, at a yearly festival, render the Revolutionry war in which they succeeded, nearly as fertile a source of irritation to them, with reference to poor Old England, though the issue was successful, as its disasters formerly were to us, who failed.—But there is this very material, and, I take the liberty of saying, characteristic, difference between the two cases: we have long ago forgotten and forgiven—out and out—all that has passed, and absolutely think so little about it, that I believe, on my conscience, not one man in a thousand amongst us knows a word of these matters, with which they are apt to imagine us so much occupied. Whereas, in America, as I have said before, the full, true, and particular account of the angry dispute between us—the knowledge of which ought to have been buried long ago—is carefully taught at school, cherished in youth, and afterwards carried, in manhood, in every ramification of public and private life.—*Basil Hall's Travels.*

published, afford very intelligible demonstrations of the feelings and wishes of the late administration, in America, regarding the "remnants of dominion" and "geographical" "appendages" of Great Britain north of the St. Lawrence. Be it also remembered, the language of the executive in a popular government like the States, is intended and meant but as an echo of the sentiments and wishes of the people.

\*" Having at length recovered from his complicated afflictions, he entered upon the enjoyment of his estate, which, although small, would have been sufficient, under prudent management, to have completed his education, on the liberal scale which his mother had designed. Unfortunately, however, he, like too many young men, sacrificing future prospects to present gratification, expended it with rather too profuse a hand. Coming, at length, to foresee that he should be finally obliged to rely on his own exertions, for support and success in life, he again betook himself to his studies with increased industry. He re-commenced under Mr. M'Culloch, in that part of Carolina which was then called the New Acquisition, near Hill's iron works. Here he revised the languages, devoting a portion of his time to a desultory course of studies."

"His education being now completed, so far as his wasted patrimony, and the limited opportunities then afforded in that section of the country, would permit, *at the age of eighteen*, he turned his attention to acquiring a profession, and in preparing himself to enter on the busy scenes of life. The pulpit, for which he had been designed by his mother, was now abandoned for the bar; and, in the winter of 1784, he repaired to Salisbury, in North Carolina, and commenced the study of law, under Spruce M'Cay, Esq. (afterwards one of the judges of that state,) and subsequently continued it under Colonel John Stokes. Having remained at Salisbury until the winter of 1786, he obtained a license from the judges to practice law, and continued in the state until the spring of 1788."

At the early age of 21, he stood a solitary individual in life, his nearest and dearest relations were in their graves; not one of his kindred had been spared to remind him of

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\* Reid's Memoirs of Jackson.

"these endearing recollections and circumstances which warp the mind to the place of its nativity." He therefore determined to go to Tennessee with Judge M'Nairy; and in that territory he commenced the practice of the law, and was soon after appointed Attorney General of the Western District. His biographer informs us, that at this early period of his life he distinguished himself in checking the depredations committed by the Indians upon the settlers.

In 1796, he was chosen one of the members of the convention for establishing a constitution for the state of Tennessee\*, and was the first member elected to congress by

\* It is well known that Dewitt Clinton became more and more democratic in his principles as his years and experience increased: Jackson on the contrary was always, from first to last, the same firm uncompromising democrat. In 1825, on the anniversary of independence, he thus addressed the people of Franklin: "I have indeed always acted upon the belief that ours was *a government of the people*; that it belonged *to them*: and that to preserve it pure and correct in its operations every agency, sanctioned by the charter of their liberties, should be maintained to them.—The chief magistracy of this country, is indeed a post of high distinction, and is equally one of great responsibility; yet the distinction and honor which pertain to it disappears, whenever it may be attained through *any other* channel, and by *any other* means, than a free and *spontaneous* approbation of the people." And at a public dinner at Nashville, the same year, his volunteer toast, bore testimony how much he agreed with Clinton as to the best means of perpetuating the republican union. That toast was, "*Virtue and intelligence—The sheet-anchor of our national union, and the perpetuity of our national freedom.*"

Since he became president, an opportunity has been afforded him, June 25th, 1829, to declare his opinions of the relation which the instruction of the people bears to the stability and prosperity of free governments, and of the excellence and utility of infant schools.

On that day, a class of infant scholars, between two and eight years, and who had been only four weeks at school, waited upon him at the White House, with their parents and teachers, being introduced by Mr. Danforth, of Washington: To whose address on the occasion General Jackson

that commonwealth. Next year, when only thirty years of age, he was chosen a senator of the United States. About this time he was chosen to succeed General Conway as Major General of the military division of Tennessee, by the field officers, and continued to hold that appointment until, in 1814, he was constituted a Major General of the United States service.

\* "Becoming tired of political life, for the intrigues of which he declared himself unqualified, and having for two years voted in the minority in congress, he resigned, after the first session, his seat in the senate. To this measure he was strongly induced, from a desire to make way for general Smith, who, he conjectured, would, in that capacity, be able to render more important services to the government than himself. His country, unwilling that his talents should remain inactive and unemployed, again demanded his services. Immediately after his resignation, he was appointed one of the judges of the supreme court of the state. Sensibly alive to the difficult duties of this station, distrusting his legal acquirements, and impressed with the great injury he might produce to suitors, by erroneous decisions, he advanced to the office with reluctance, and in a short time resigned, leaving it open for those, who,

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replied : "I am much gratified, sir, to receive a visit from these little children, especially when I consider the importance of knowledge, and a thorough education in our republic. I look with much interest on the rising generation, and cannot but hope, that the efforts made for its advancement in knowledge will be successful. I certainly approve of connecting amusement with instruction, when the latter, instead of being retarded, is promoted by the former.—Whatever plans increase knowledge, are likely to increase virtue, and the power of the state; and to the children of our country, we must look for future patriots and guardians. You have my best wishes for prosperity in the infant schools."

The president spoke with much affability and kindness of manner, to the children individually; his grey locks and venerable features, as he bent down to them, contrasting strongly with their youthful curls, and infantile aspect.

The exercises, on the novel plan of the infant school, lasted about an hour.

\* Reid's Memoirs of Jackson.

he believed, were better qualified than himself, to discharge its intricate and important duties. Unambitious of those distinctions and honors which young men are usually proud to possess; finding too, that his circumstances and condition in life, were not such as to permit his time and attention to be devoted to public matters, he determined to yield them into others' hands, and to devote himself to agricultural pursuits; and accordingly settled himself on an excellent farm, ten miles from Nashville, on the Cumberland river; where, for several years, he enjoyed all the comforts of domestic and social intercourse. Abstracted from the busy scenes of public life, pleased with retirement, surrounded by friends whom he loved, and who entertained for him the highest veneration and respect, and blessed with an amiable and affectionate consort, nothing seemed wanting to the completion of that happiness which he so anxiously desired whilst in office.

But a period approached, when all these endearments were again to be abandoned, for the duties of more active life. Great Britain, by multiplied outrages on our rights, as an independent and neutral nation, had provoked from our government a declaration of war against her. This measure, though founded in abundant cause, had been long forborne, and every attempt at conciliation made, without effect: when, at length, it was resorted to, as the only alternative that could preserve the honour and dignity of the nation, General Jackson, ever devoted to the interest of his country, from the moment of the declaration, *knew no wish so strong as that of entering into her service, against a power, which, independent of public considerations, he had many private reasons for disliking. In her, he could trace sufferings and injuries received, and the efficient cause, why, in early life, he had been left forlorn and wretched, without a single relation in the world.* His proud and inflexible mind, however, could not venture to solicit an appointment in the army, which was about to be raised. He accordingly remained wholly unknown, until, at the head of the militia, employed against the Creek Indians, his constant vigilance, and the splendour of his victories, apprised the general government of those great military talents which he so eminently possessed, and conspicuously displayed, when opportunities for exerting them were afforded."

We have copied the last paragraph *entire*, because it

still more distinctly proves the feelings and sentiments of General Jackson towards the present government of Great Britain. We are well aware that the same unfriendly principles are not retained against Irishmen, Englishmen and Scotsmen. Far from it. To the unanimity of the Irish and their descendants in his favour, added to the active exertions and votes of a great majority of the democratic Scotch and English citizens of America (who say they were driven thither by what *they term* the tyranny of the aristocracy and the impoverishing taxes and corn laws enacted for their support in affluence at the expence of the comforts of a whole people) he is in no small degree indebted for his elevation to the presidency. And were a war to break out in America, the most determined and uncompromising enemies of the present government of Great Britain would assuredly be found among the emigrants who have left the three kingdoms for the republic, and among their immediate descendants. Not an unpopular or (as these people consider it) *arbitrary* act is allowed in England and sanctioned by its government, but excites in a higher degree the hatred of America, the moment her thousand presses have promulgated the tidings on this side the Atlantic.—Accustomed to consider the people and the government of Great Britain as two distinct *and opposing* bodies, the people of republican America will warmly welcome an Irish emigrant on his arrival upon their shores, while at the same time they give vent to feelings of the most unfriendly nature against the tyranny and misery (so they are pleased to call it) from which he has escaped.

To offer even an epitome of Jackson's military exploits, would swell this article far beyond its brief limits. Under the authority of the acts of congress of February and May, 1812, authorising President Madison to accept the services of fifty thousand volunteers, Jackson raised 2500 men and prepared to descend the Mississippi and defend the country. His subsequent campaigns in the Indian territories.



occupy the residue of Major Reid's *four chapters*, and the narrative cannot well be abridged. Mr. Eaton's continuation commences with further details of the warfare with the savages, and the 6th chapter concludes by stating the preparations that had been made for the campaign, in which the Americans reduced Pensacola. He had previously led several expeditions against the Indians of the south, with decision and effect; and met with uniform success.

As it forms an important part of our design, to exhibit the principles and feelings of the present administration of the United States' government, we shall here copy a paragraph from the 7th chapter of Mr. Eaton's work, once more reminding our readers that the author is at this moment, the war secretary of the Union and the personal friend of its chief magistrate.

\* "It was now rumoured, and generally accredited, that a very considerable force would shortly sail from England, destined to act against some part of the United States; where, none knew, or could tell; rumour, and public opinion, fixed its destination for New Orleans. The importance of this place was well known to our enemy; it was the key to the entire commerce of the western country. Had a descent been made on it a few months before, it might have been taken with all imaginable ease; but the British had confidently indulged the belief, that they could possess it at any time, without much difficulty. England and France having ended their long-pending controversy, it was presumed that the French people of Louisiana, sensibly alive to the great benefits the English had conferred upon their native country,—benefits that prostrated her liberty, and which have sunk her, perhaps, in eternal slavery, would, on their first appearance, hail their deliverers, and at once become their vassals. Independent of this, they imagined the black population would afford them the means of exciting insurrection and massacre, and deluging the country in blood. Whether a resort to this kind of warfare, which involves the deepest wretchedness, and equally exposes to ruin the innocent as the guilty,—the female as the soldier, should be sanctioned by a nation professing a high sense of

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\* Eaton's life of Jackson.

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 moral feeling; or whether a nation that adopts such a system, merits countenance from the civilized world, are questions on which we should not fear the decision even of an Englishman, could he but divest himself of that animosity and hatred, which, from infancy, he learns to entertain for the Americans. To this, and many other acts equally in violation of the rules that should govern honourable warfare, *may be traced the cause of those deep-rooted inveteracies in the breasts of our citizens, towards those of England,* which time, and a different course of conduct, can alone remove. Why such hostility has been practised towards us, it is difficult to determine; unless the crime of the revolution, if it were one, to rise in opposition to the oppression and despotism under which we then groaned, has disposed them to visit the sins of the father upon the child, with a determination they shall never be forgiven or forgotten.—Certain it is, that the United States have received a greater number of insults and injuries from this power, than from all the nations of the earth together; *the hoary locks of a father, torn off by the merciless Indian,—the innocent, helpless female, bleeding by savage torture,—and the unoffending babe, dragged from the beating bosom of its mother, and butchered in her sight, are cruelties that can be traced to British influence:* yet these people and ourselves are descended from the same fathers—speak the same language—are governed by the same laws—and are similar in manners and customs. But to inquire into the causes of national feeling, belongs not to the historian; it is his duty only to detail facts. The war is over; peace is restored; and the two nations, and their citizens, by a mutual respect, and forbearance towards each other, should endeavour to promote that friendship and intercourse, which it is evidently the interest of both to preserve, and which, we hope, may be lasting.”

We have italicized a sentence or two of Mr. Eaton's, and are desirous that the following language, delivered in the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, in December, 1825, by Mr. Robinson, the present chief justice of the king's bench, may be compared with it. It will be remembered that Mr. R. repeated the observations in his place and gloried in them. We copy the printed reports, and having been present, can attest their accuracy.

“The Attorney General (of U. C.) in a most impassion-

“ ed tone, said he would suffer *death* before he would consent to a measure that would confer the rights of subjects on men who, but a few years ago, had invaded our country—ransacked our villages—burnt our houses—and *murdered* our wives and children.”

The learned gentleman alluded to those Anglo-Americans who had, up to that time, come into the province, having left the United States after the close of the last war. But very far indeed was he from expressing the sentiments of Upper Canada, or of the assembly he addressed, her representatives.

Of the circumstances attending Jackson's attack upon Pensacola; the capture of that place and destruction of the Barrancas, the public are already in full possession.—The occupation of a Spanish territory in time of peace, was an unauthorized act, of which that officer assumed the entire responsibility.

With the eighth chapter commences the history of the defence of Louisiana; and we perceive, that in a letter to the *then* war secretary, dated Nov. 20th, 1814, Jackson proposes a plan, which if followed “I will,” he adds, “insure that an effective force shall soon appear in every quarter, amply sufficient for the reduction of Canada, and to drive our enemies from our shores.” †

† In his inaugural address, paragraph eighth, he avows his opinion, that the military should be held subordinate to the civil power; that standing armies are dangerous to free governments in time of peace; that increasing the navy, preserving forts, arsenals and dock yards, and introducing progressive improvements in the discipline of both branches of the military service, are measures prescribed by prudence. But, as in 1814, on the national militia is his great dependence placed. “As long” says he “as our government is administered for the good of the people, and is regulated by their will; as long as it secures to us the rights of person and of property, liberty of conscience and of the press, it will be worth defending: and so long as it is worth defending, a patriotic militia will cover it with in-

The successful mode of defence which he adopted against an invading force, as superior in numerical strength as in arms and military discipline to the irregular troops under his command, obtained for him the admiration and esteem of many of his countrymen †, who felt grateful to him as the deliverer of America from the horrors of civil war.

|| "The annunciation of the triumphant defence of New Orleans, was, in every section of the country, hailed with acclamation; illuminations and fetes followed it into all our cities and principal towns; and in all was it agreed, that none other than the decided course adopted by Jackson, could have attained so auspicious a result. The legislatures of many of the states voted to him their approbation and thanks for what he had done. The congress of the United States did the same, and directed a gold medal to be presented to him, commemorative of the event. Addresses from numerous societies and meetings of the people were forwarded, expressive of their great regard, and proclaiming him the deliverer and second saviour of his country."

The accounts given of the battle of the 8th January, 1815, both by British officers and Americans, speak in the highest terms of approbation of the gallant behaviour and resolute undaunted character of the British soldiers, and the no less determined spirit of resistance, and cautious foresight displayed by the Republican Militiamen, and their extraordinary commander §.

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penetrable *ægis*:" "a million of armed freemen, possessed of the means of war, can never be conquered by a foreign foe."

† The following anecdote is a set off to another of the same class related of the general commanding at the taking of Washington, and president Madison:

When the British fleet arrived off New Orleans, in December, 1814, previous to Packenham's landing his army, the admiral of the fleet sent his compliments to general Jackson, and informed him that he (the admiral), would do himself the honor of eating his Christmas dinner in New Orleans. "May be so," replied old Hickory, "but I shall do myself the honor of sitting at the head of the table."

|| Eaton's life of Jackson.

§ Alluding to a late article in the London Quarterly, a

It has been remarked, we think by Stedman, that Americans fighting for the safety of their firesides have displayed in innumerable cases the greatest bravery and contempt of danger; and it is singular that the government of Great Britain shews so great anxiety to curtail and destroy the privileges and liberties of the colonists, who would be the best and only sure defence if well used *and confided in*.—Mr. Eaton justly observes, that while “the people of Rome felt themselves freemen, and proud of the name of citizens, Rome was invincible; and to descend to times more modern, the strength of France was an overmatch for combined Europe, only while Frenchmen had confidence in, and regard for their government, and felt that they were a part of it.” Elsewhere, speaking of Jackson’s soldiers, he says that they “were most of them owners of the soil, who had families anxiously concerned for their safety, and whose happiness depend upon their return: such men would have proven a loss to the community, too great to warrant their being risked for the mere gratification of pride; in opposition, too, to those whose trade was war; and who, wholly abstracted from every thing like principle, contended in

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correspondent of the National Gazette observes, that “the remark respecting Gen. Jackson, so far as it affects to depreciate the laurels he won at Orleans, is perfectly despicable, and such as no officer in the British army, I feel well assured, would not be ashamed of, and willing to denounce as a base calumny. In reference to it I may relate to you a conversation at which I happened to be present in the year 1825, wherein Sir John Kean, who was the second, I think, in command to Packenham, and wounded at the battle of Orleans, on the name of Gen. Jackson being mentioned, spoke in the highest terms of the military skill of that commander, and said there was no individual whom he would be more delighted to see. Indeed, he expressed himself desirous of visiting the United States expressly for that purpose, if he thought the animosity which had existed between America and England had sufficiently subsided to prevent the manifestation of any disrespectful feeling towards him.”

battle without knowing why, or for what they fought."—Let British rulers cease to interfere with the internal concerns of the colonists, but allow them the *free use* of their constitutions, and assuredly both parties will be gainers.—With the successful example of the republic before them, it is altogether unaccountable that conciliation of the population is not even so much as attempted in Upper Canada. Britain, continues Mr. Eaton, may "discover in our yeomanry a determination to sustain with firmness, a government which knows nothing of oppression; but which, on an enlarged and liberal scale, aims to secure the independence and happiness of man. If the people of the United States, free almost as the air they breathe, shall at any time omit to maintain their privileges and their government, then indeed will it be idle longer to speak of the rights of men, or of their capacity to govern themselves: the dream of liberty must fade away and perish forever, no more to be remembered or thought of."

The attack upon St. Augustine \*—the execution of Am-

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\* "When the president of the United States, in the laudable exercise of a sound discretion, directed the chieftain, commanding in the south, to wrest the affrighted infant from the bloody grasp of savage barbarity, to ward off, with his avenging sword, the merciless tomahawk from the head of the frantic mother, and to put a speedy termination to the murderous war, what solicitude for the constitution was expressed—what alarms were sounded by a corps of *constitutional* editors?—In the execution of these orders, general Jackson found it necessary to pursue, whithersoever the foe retreated: he, therefore, was compelled to cross over the boundary line of the United States into the Spanish territory, in pursuit of the enemy who had taken refuge there. This act, although it was the means of putting an end to the war, and restoring peace to the frontiers of Georgia, became the theme of abuse. The motives of this gallant officer were impugned—his ambition was represented as unbounded, as alarming—and his disposition, as ignoble, blood-thirsty and cruel!

We would beg leave to inquire, in what does the conduct of the lamented Allen and Commodore Porter, differ from that of General Jackson."—[Virginia Times.]



brister—and General Jackson's argument, that "it is an established principle in the laws of nations, that any individual of a nation making war against the citizens of any other nation, they being at peace, forfeits his allegiance, and becomes *an outlaw and a pirate*"—we have ever disapproved of. But true it is that many individuals, politicians, statesmen, editors of papers and others, who agreed with us on these questions, were afterwards found among the warmest of Jackson's supporters for the presidency of the Union. Files of the Richmond Enquirer and New York Evening Post, of these times are before us, and the veteran editors of these standard journals, both of whom afterwards ranged themselves in the ranks of the present administration, did then most unequivocally condemn the conduct of the general commanding. The Senate of the Union too, by a special committee, made a report unfavourable to Jackson, a report which, says the Enquirer, is recommended "by the soundness of its constitutional doctrines, by its bold adherence to the principles of 1800," and because its deductions are (in Mr. Ritchie's opinion) "always just."

On the other hand, it ought to be remembered, that among the documents communicated to Congress, in relation to the *Seminole* contest, the Secretary of war unequivocally declares, in a letter to the governor of the Alabama territory, dated 13th May, 1818, that "*General Jackson is vested with full power to conduct the war in the manner which he shall think best*;"—That Arbuthnot met the fate which the court martial *had awarded to him*, that Ambrister was condemned to death by the same authority, and that it was to the after consideration of this latter decision, at the instance of one of its members, that the general demurred; that Ambrister was handed to execution, having been found in the ranks or cause of a savage enemy, which respected no laws of war itself, and therefore was entitled to no indulgence in return; that many of the public writers and public men of the Uni-

ted States, who boldly denounced General Jackson, at that period, have since declared that they have had ample occasion to change their views of the affair and of the motives by which he was actuated; that it is often exceedingly difficult for persons sitting quietly in their closets to comprehend the innumerable difficulties which surround military men when charged with the management of such a war as we now speak of; that the then administration of the United States' government, and the House of Representatives in Congress, approved of the course Jackson pursued; that after an interval of seven years, when public opinion had had time calmly to review these matters, and notwithstanding the affected contempt and industrious misrepresentations of his adversaries, he received more of the electoral votes than the highest of the three candidates upon the list; and lastly, that, supported by wary and prudent men \*, of education, of fortune, of religion,—in particular above all others, by the baptists and presbyterians of the States, he has overcome all opposition and taken his place at the helm of affairs, as chief of the Union by the greatest plurality of votes obtained since the days of Washington. We are all of us admirers of the rights of *juries*, and it must be owned that Andrew Jackson has gone thro' a very severe ordeal and that too successfully †.

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\* That eminent and much lamented Statesman, De Witt Clinton, before his death, openly and decidedly expressed himself in favour of *Jackson*, as the most fit candidate for the Presidential chair of the Union.

† We hold it to be a strong proof of the excellence of a public man's character, when, after an experience of twenty or thirty years, his neighbours who have most narrowly watched his political course, and had ample opportunities of investigating his private character, come forward unanimously to express unqualified approbation, and to state their willingness to trust him in yet higher stations. This proof did Jackson obtain in the state of Tennessee, where, on the 20th July, 1822, he was first nominated for the office he now fills, by the unanimous vote of the House of Rep-

In the memorable case of the seven American Citizens who were hung at Burlington Beach during the late war, there were no savages in the question; the men whose lives were taken were foreigners, owing our government no natural allegiance. Why were they hung? How very different a case was theirs from that of Ambrister, and yet how little noise has been made about it, by the friends and dependants of the colonial administrations, those friends and creatures who afterwards suspended on a tree in open day light, and *in time of peace*, in the capital of this province, the effigies of him who is now president of the United States.

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representatives, whose resolve was, that "in him they behold the soldier, the statesman, and the honest man; he deliberates, he decides, and he acts; he is calm in deliberation, cautious in decision, efficient in action. Such a man we are willing to aid in electing to the highest office in the gift of a free people. The welfare of a country may be safely entrusted to the hands of him who has experienced every privation, and encountered every danger, to promote its safety, its honor, and its glory."

His correct views of the responsibilities attached to the station to which his own state desired him to be raised, may be seen in his reply to an address of the citizens of Nashville, at a public dinner three years afterwards: The following is an extract:

"When thus brought before the people, the canvass was conducted without any interference of mine: nor did I, when the election devolved upon the house of representatives, attempt, in any manner, to influence its decision. The presidential chair I have always viewed as a situation too responsible to be sought after, by any individual, however great his talents, or eminent his services. It is one which the immortal Washington approached with awful forebodings, conscious that the destiny of a free people—of unborn millions, were committed to his charge; that, without the smiles of Providence, and the confiding and indulgent support of the people themselves, his exertions would be unequal to the task. With such authority to support the maxim which I have endeavored to follow through life—'Neither to seek nor decline public favor,' I offer my past conduct as proof of my sincerity."

In April, 1821, several individuals interested, addressed letters to General Jackson, desiring his opinion on the tariff question, which was then agitating the country. From his answer to Doctor Coleman of Warrenton, dated Washington City, April 26th, 1824, the greater part of which we have copied from the Raleigh [N. C.] Star, the reader will gather much important information, not only concerning his personal opinions on the support to be given to domestic industry, but also in regard to the general policy he would wish to see pursued by his country. The substance of his reply is as follows:

"You ask me my opinion on the tariff. I answer, that I am in favour of a judicious examination and revision of it; and so far as the tariff bill before us embraces the design of fostering, protecting, and preserving within ourselves the means of national defence and independence, particularly in a state of war, I would advocate and support it. The experience of the late war ought to teach us a lesson, and one never to be forgotten. If our liberty and republican form of government, procured for us by our revolutionary fathers, are worth the blood and treasure at which they were obtained, it surely is our duty to protect and defend them. Can there be an American patriot, who saw the privations, dangers and difficulties experienced for the want of proper means of defence during the last war, who would be willing again to hazard the safety of our country, if embroiled; or to rest it for defence on the precarious means of national resource to be derived from commerce in a state of war with a maritime power, who might destroy that commerce to prevent us obtaining the means of defence, and thereby subdue us? I hope there is not; and if there is, I am sure he does not deserve to enjoy the blessings of freedom. Heaven smiled upon, and gave us liberty and independence. That same Providence has blessed us with the means of national independence and national defence. If we omit or refuse to use the gifts which he has extended to us, we deserve not the continuation of his blessings. He has filled our mountains and our plains with minerals—with lead, iron and copper; and given us climate and soil for the growing of hemp and wool. These being the grand materials of our national defence, they ought to have extended to them adequate and fair protection, that our own manufacturers and

laborers may be placed on a fair competition with those of Europe, and that we may have, within our country, a supply of those leading and important articles, so essential in war. Beyond this, I look at the tariff with an eye to the proper distribution of labour, and to revenue; and with a view to discharge our national debt. I am one of those who do not believe that a national debt is a national blessing, but rather a curse to a republic; inasmuch as it is calculated to raise around the administration a monied aristocracy, dangerous to the liberties of the country. This tariff—I mean a judicious one—possesses more fanciful than real danger. I will ask, what is the real situation of the agriculturist? Where has the American farmer a market for his surplus product? Except for cotton, he has neither a foreign or home market. Does not this clearly prove, when there is no market either at home or abroad, that there is too much labor employed in agriculture; and that the channels for labour should be multiplied? Common sense points out, at once the remedy. Draw from agriculture this superabundant labour; employ it in mechanism and manufactures; thereby creating a home market for our bread-stuffs, and distributing labour to the most profitable account; and benefits to the country will result. Take from agriculture, in the United States, six hundred thousand men, women and children, and you will at once give a home market for more bread-stuffs than all Europe now furnishes us. In short, sir, we have been too long subject to the policy of the British merchants. It is time that we should become a little more *Americanized*; and, instead of feeding the paupers and labourers of England, feed our own; or else, in a short time, by continuing our present policy, we shall all be rendered paupers ourselves.

It is, therefore, my opinion, that a careful and judicious tariff is much wanted, to pay our national debt, and afford us the means of that defence within ourselves, on which the safety of our country and liberty depends; and last, though not least, give a proper distribution to our labor, which must prove beneficial to the happiness, independence and wealth of the community.

“This is a short outline of my opinions, generally, on the subject of your inquiry, and believing them correct, and calculated to further the prosperity and happiness of my country, I declare to you, I would not barter them for any office or situation of a temporal character, that could be given me.

"I have presented you my opinions freely, because I am without concealment; and should indeed despise myself, if I could believe myself capable of desiring the confidence of any, by means so ignoble."

In 1828, Governor Ray, of Indiana, again requested his opinion of what is termed the "American System," and obtained in reply a copy of the letter to Doctor Coleman, from which the above is an extract, with the information that the writer had not since then changed his sentiments. "To preserve our invaluable constitution (added Jackson) and be prepared to repel the invasions of a foreign foe, by the practice of economy, and the cultivation, *within ourselves*, of the means of national defence and independence, should be, it seems to me, the leading objects of any system which aspires to the name of "American," and of every prudent administration of our government."

The same principle is kept steadily in view in his inaugural address; the sixth clause of which, upon imports, evidently recommends "the peculiar encouragement of any products of 'agriculture, commerce and manufactures' that may be found essential to" the "independence" of the Republic. The President and his cabinet will assuredly not incline to grant the corn bill gentry and boroughmongers of England a better bargain than would have been made with them by his predecessor.

We incline to believe, that Congress will make no relaxation of importance in the present tariff, in favour of British goods, at its next sitting. That measure was carried by a strong majority of both ins and outs, and its advocates will increase. What a ruinous affair for England has been her *corn bill*, so long persisted in! It has driven many thousands of her *wealthy* tradesmen and ablest mechanics to seek a home on this continent, to which, unless for its operation, they never would have thought of carrying their industry, talent, skill and capital, or of seeking a home. It has had other and still more destructive effects, which are at last beginning to be developed. The genius of a Watt and the ingenuity of an Arkwright in their inventions



of the Steam Engine and Spinning Jenny, has created for the English aristocracy, millions of subjects, who work hard and require no sustenance; by means of the improvements projected by these mechanics, has a *system* of taxation and national debt and extravagance been continued and supported, that otherwise would have long since sunk under its own intolerable weight, or been checked by a substantial reform in the constitution of the House of Commons. A reform despaired of as far back as 1811, even by Sir Philip Francis,\* but which, it is well known, 80,000 men in the West of Scotland, were prepared to enforce at the point of the sword, nine years ago, had they had adequate leaders under which to range themselves, or a well digested plan of operations by which to act. The British government, by its spies, ascertained correctly this last fact, and we hope it will profit by the information obtained.

An interesting account of General Jackson's residence and habits, has been communicated to the Editor of the *United Service Journal*, a well known British periodical, by an English gentleman, who travelled through Tennessee five or six years ago; this account we copy, as it will aid in undeceiving those in Canada who have listened to and believed the lying stories of party prints, opposed to the General solely from party considerations.

" Travelling through the Western States of America in the early part of the year 1823, I was induced by the fame of this distinguished man, as well as by the report of his hospitality, to request an introduction to him. Gen. H., formerly an aid of the hero, and now commanding the

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\* " I am not young enough to embark again in what I believe to be a hopeless enterprise. I doubt the actual existence of an English public for any great national purpose; and, if it exists, I am not its debtor. As far as I can judge, the mass of the English population is inert; the country has lost its passions, and is not fit for action. This general opinion is open to exceptions, and you are one of them."—[Letter of Sir Philip Francis to Major Cartwright. *April*, 1811.]

militia of the State of Tennessee, being made acquainted with my wish, came, and politely tendered me his carriage and attendance. We left Nashville for General Jackson's seat, the Hermitage, distant about nine miles, on a Saturday morning, and arrived just as he and his lady were getting into the carriage to attend a meeting of Presbyterians, the latter being a strict follower of that sect.—To this church, which was erected entirely with money supplied from his own purse, and was situated not a mile from his house, we repaired. Gen. Jackson's religious faith and principles, as well as every thing else connected with him, underwent the strictest scrutiny at the late presidential election. From what I saw of him, I should suppose him a consistent Christian, making no pretensions to being better than his neighbors, but establishing that fact by a long life of rigid probity, and the performance of honorable and noble deeds. The affection entertained for him by his domestics—his neighbours, all who know him intimately, proves the amiability of his private life, and the multiplicity of trusts imposed upon him as a guardian, executor, &c. attest the confidence placed in his honor and honesty.

“After the service was concluded, we returned to the General's house, and found dinner ready. I had an opportunity, in the arrangement of the dinner table, to observe the course of conduct by which he was enabled to entertain so much company, without that unhappy consummation which would invariably in England attend the like profusion in house-keeping. We had upon the table abundance of meat—there was beef, mutton, turkeys, geese and several kinds of ducks and fowls, but neither wine nor spirituous liquors of any kind. No fruits were introduced, nor any thing save puddings, beyond the delicious and elegantly-cooked meats I have mentioned. The dinner was served up at three o'clock, the common dinner hour in America; and the company consisted of about thirty, of whom ten were ladies. They were principally travellers, attracted like myself by a wish to see the “American lion;” no person of respectability visited that part of the country at the time I was there, without making a call upon the General. He kept open doors, and seldom sat down to dinner with fewer than twenty guests. The expense attending this hospitality was met by the most rigid economy in every department, by a strict personal observation of his domestic polity, and every thing connected with his estate. Every day, at an early hour, he was in his fields superintending

his slaves and workmen, with whom he remained many hours, and every day he made the circuit of the estate, and saw the stock."\*

We think we have, in former parts of this little work, very distinctly shewn the political principles of General Jackson: one or two additional quotations, however, may not be amiss.

*From Jackson's reply to an address delivered to him in Ten. in Nov. 1825.*—"If, in my march through life, it has been my good fortune to be an actor in scenes which eventuated beneficially, my greatest satisfaction is in knowing that, at this day, they are considered as they were intended, for the benefit and advancement of our common country. *The last spot on the globe where liberty has found a resting*

\* Having given the history of a dinner in Tennessee, in 1833, we may as well copy from a Boston journal the brief details of a feast at Washington, in June, 1829:

"Yesterday I dined at the President's with the whole foreign diplomatic corps, in their various court dresses and orders of nobility, all the officers of our army and navy now in the city, in full dress, all the heads of departments, and a few distinguished strangers, among whom was Mr. Gallatin. As it was the first public dinner he had given, I had great curiosity to witness the ceremony, and was not only gratified, but felt proud, that foreigners should witness such a splendid entertainment. The President received his guests with great dignity, his manners being those of an accomplished military officer; conversed very freely, and made himself quite agreeable. The President sat at the middle of the table, the foreign ministers ranged on his right and left, according to their rank; the Dutch minister on his right, and the British minister on his immediate left. Mr. Van Buren directly opposite, and the other heads of departments ranged on his right and left. The honors of the table were done by Major Donaldson and Mr. Hays, the nephews of Mrs. Jackson. The ladies were not present, which I regretted, for I consider Mrs. Donaldson quite beautiful, and Miss Eaton is very interesting and very social. The dinner was served up in a more splendid style, than I have witnessed on any similar occasion. The desert and wines were abundant and rich; and we left the table at 9 o'clock in fine spirits and much gratified, when coffee and cordials met us in the drawing room."

place, will not, I hope, want defenders, and sincere ones, whenever an assault may come. The world cannot remain at peace. Human nature is restless—and man, as he ever has been, is ambitious. Because our government is formed upon new principles, we must not trust alone to that; but mark, with care and caution, the secret and silent inroads which intrigue, ambition, and cunning, from time to time, may originate. In selecting, at any time, *any* agent to discharge those important functions, which, under our form of government, must necessarily be confided to him who represents us, let mind be one great consideration; but, above all, let it be ascertained that virtue and purity have, with him, taken up their abode, dwelling with him and he with them. By this means, and only this, can our government go down unimpaired to posterity. Mere form and ceremony in the guidance of our affairs, can avail but little. We must be careful and vigilant to adhere to those great principles, which characterize and mark the government we possess.” \*

*From his speech at the celebration of the anniversary of Independence, in Giles County, Tenn. 1826.*—“The spirit, sir, which blazed through the deeds of these revolutionary fathers, was the inspiration of Diety to a just cause, and needed not *the unforgiving and ruthless barbarity of the foe* to make it unconquerable, even on the field of repeated defeats and disaster: No, sir, cherished by the Author of all Good, supporting and supported by the love of liberty and virtue, it achieved more than could have been, more than ever was done, by the unaided powers of man—the establishment of a free and happy government dependent alone upon the will of the people.”

“The second war of our independence grew out of a *system of outrage and insult* renewed by the same enemy, and, no doubt, with the hope of annihilating the fair fabric which the first had erected: But how vain were his hopes! Our sons proved worthy of their fathers, many

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\* Men are to be subdued only three ways; that of policing them by a set of laws; that of calling in religion to second their laws; or, lastly, that of cutting the throats of one part of the nation to govern the other: if there be a fourth, it is more than I know. All three require favourable circumstances.—*Voltaire.*

of whom witnessed the struggle, and in the accomplishment of their prayers, saw their independence gloriously confirmed and re-established, and *hailed* us worthy the sacred heritage commemorated by this day."

*From his reply to the New York Delegation, January 8th.*—"That our government was constituted for the happiness of the people, and that its offices are the instruments of their will, and created for their welfare, are maxims which I learned from the fathers of our revolution. I am now too old to depart from them. They spring from the same source *with the great principle of rotation in office, a principle which cannot be too solemnly impressed upon the attention of the American people.* It is the channel of sovereignty, through which the renovating influence is conveyed to every department of government, and the weak points in the system detected and fortified, so as to contribute to the defence of liberty.

It was the saying of a celebrated author, that "The malignant air of calumny soonest attacks the sound and elevated in mind, as storms of wind the tallest and most fruitful trees; whilst the low and weak, for bowing and moving to and fro, are by their weakness secure from the danger and violence of the tempest;" and perhaps there are few public men now living who have been traduced and slandered in the same degree and to the same extent as General Jackson. We have often wondered how a man of his ardent temperament could endure, unruffled,

the many poisoned shafts that were hurled at his head by his personal and political adversaries. Indeed, we have been credibly informed, that the falsehoods circulated concerning him from year to year, with so much industry, were, on several occasions, the cause of much uneasiness.

"If it be true," observes his biographer, "that his principles and sentiments on some subjects be at variance with those practised upon, and deemed correct by others, it is the effect of education, and of early impressions upon his mind, by which a particular bent has been given to it. Speaking one day of his mother, he observed, 'one of the last injunctions given me by her, was never to institute a suit for assault and battery, or for defamation; never to wound the feelings of others, nor suffer my own to be outraged; these were her words of admonition to me; I remember them well and have never failed to respect them; my settled course through life has been, to bear them in mind, and never to insult or wantonly to assail the feelings of any one; and yet many conceive me to be a most ferocious animal, insensible to moral duty and regardless of the laws both of God and man.' " \*

His "deportment in his new residence, and the manners of his family, have given much satisfaction to the foreigners as well as Americans, who have held intercourse with them." The editor of the *National Gazette*, represents him as of prepossessing address; easy, liberal, and sensible in conversation. It is his constant

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\* Eaton's Memoirs of Jackson.



daily practice to visit the public offices, and examine into the manner that the auditors and clerks perform their duties. His cabinet is composed of men who are reported as indefatigable in the discharge of their numerous and important duties ; of easy access, and affable in their manner towards those with whom they have to transact the business of the public.

“ In the person of general Jackson is perceived nothing of the robust or elegant.—He is six feet and an inch high, remarkably straight and spare, and weighs not more than a hundred and forty-five pounds. His conformation appears to disqualify him for hardship ; yet accustomed to it from early life, *few are capable of enduring fatigue to the same extent, or with less injury.* His dark blue eyes, with brows arched and slightly projecting, possess a marked expression ; but when from any cause, excited, they sparkle with peculiar lustre and penetration. In his manners he is pleasing—in his address commanding ; while his countenance marked with firmness and decision, beams with a strength and intelligence that strikes at first sight. In his deportment, there is nothing repulsive. Easy, affable and familiar, he is open and accessible to all. Influenced by the belief, that merit should constitute the only difference in men, his attention is equally bestowed on honest poverty as on titled consequence. No man, however inconsiderable his standing, ever approached him on business that he did not patiently listen to his story, and afford him all the infor-

mation in his power. His moral character is without reproach, and by those who know him most intimately, he is most esteemed. Benevolence, in him is a prominent virtue. He was never known to pass distress without seeking to assist and to relieve it." \*

We shall conclude our brief sketch with one other extract, descriptive of the manners and appearance of General Jackson.

"I was requested by the Secretary of State not to quit the city without waiting upon the President of the United States, and as that gentleman offered to send his eldest son, major Van Buren, along with me, I acquiesced, and we went to the President's house one forenoon early last June. Expecting to meet with a haughty, distant "military chieftain," I was agreeably disappointed and pleased to find in General Jackson great gentleness and benevolence of manner, accompanied with that good natured affability of address which will enable all persons who wait upon him to feel at ease in his presence, as well the backwoodsman full of 'republican simplicity,' as the man of the world, long familiar with the pomp and circumstance of regal magnificence. We were ushered into a large and pleasant apartment, with plain furniture and lofty ceiling, the windows of which command a view of the beautiful valley of the Potomac, where we found the President. On being introduced to him, he shook me heartily by the hand, as did his friend and

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\* Raton's Memoir.

' private Secretary, Major Donaldson, who was  
 ' the only person in the room with him when we  
 ' arrived. After a conversation of some time I  
 ' took my leave. I had read in the National  
 ' Journal, a long history of innumerable forms  
 ' and ceremonies to be *undergone* by persons pay-  
 ' ing their respects to the head of the govern-  
 ' ment, but found it was all a joke of the opposi-  
 ' tion. One attendant only was 'in waiting,' an  
 ' agile little fellow with a light summer jacket on,  
 ' who appeared to me, the very antipodes of ce-  
 ' remony and parade. I compared this active  
 ' and useful servant, in my mind's eye, with the  
 ' hosts of lacqueys and bedchamber *gentlemen*,  
 ' I had seen surrounding the persons and devour-  
 ' ing the revenues of European Princes, and the  
 ' odds were greatly in favor of that simple yet  
 ' efficient system, which, disdaining the costly  
 ' foppery and useless trappings of state, prefers  
 ' placing confidence in the virtue and intelligence  
 ' of a *free* people. The countenance and per-  
 ' son of the President are such as, once seen,  
 ' will not soon be forgotten : his tall erect figure,  
 ' and singularly original physiognomy allow of  
 ' no mistakes as to the individual. His looks  
 ' are far more manly, commanding and open than  
 ' the portraits in the print shops would indicate,  
 ' and his eye seems to betray a disposition ardent  
 ' and passionate, but never sullen or petulant.—  
 ' His forehead is very high, and the lines there-  
 ' on deeply indented ; his complexion dark and  
 ' sun-burnt, and his visage that of the war-worn  
 ' veteran. I was impressed with his contempla-

' tive thoughtful countenance and strong marked  
 ' features, well do they correspond with the  
 ' eventful tale of his adventurous life. His ex-  
 ' terior appearance is remarkably plain, and he  
 ' wears a black dress, without any badge indica-  
 ' tive of his rank and office ; yet are his person and  
 ' demeanour well calculated to inspire a stranger  
 ' with a sentiment beyond mere respect. I look-  
 ' ed for the ring of Washington's hair with which  
 ' he had been presented, but it was not on his  
 ' finger ; it may be also remembered, that on  
 ' him were bestowed the telescope and pistols of  
 ' the father of American liberty. I had been in-  
 ' formed that he was sickly and unfit to transact  
 ' business, which is another of the romances of  
 ' the partisan presses in opposition to his admi-  
 ' nistration—he evidently enjoys an ordinary  
 ' share of good health, and sometimes rides six-  
 ' teen miles of a morning before breakfast, which is  
 ' no unfavourable constitutional symptom. Lack-  
 ' ing some twenty or thirty years of the age at  
 ' which his venerated predecessors, Washington,  
 ' Jefferson and the elder Adams left the scenes of  
 ' their country's greatness, he bids fair to fill the  
 ' presidential chair for the next eight years, with  
 ' infinite honor and advantage to himself and his  
 ' nation, and will probably retire into private  
 ' life the last of the Presidents which America  
 ' can select from that noble band of patriots  
 ' whose virtue and whose valour proved the sal-  
 ' vation of their common country in its first and  
 ' most glorious revolution." \*

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\* Letters on America, pages 172, 3, 4.